



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Mr. John Wolflin
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401

22 FEB 2000

re: Endangered Species Act
Request for Identification

Dear Mr. Wolflin:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified an uncontrolled release of hazardous substances affecting the environment at the 12th Street Landfill/Dump Site ("Site") located in Wilmington, Delaware. EPA is proposing a CERCLA Removal Action to prevent the continued release of lead, and other hazardous substances, to the Brandywine Creek from the Site. The Removal Action will include removal of highly contaminated sediment from the mudflat of the Brandywine Creek and cover of the highly contaminated bank. This correspondence requests that endangered or threatened species at the Site be identified.

The Site is the location of an abandoned dump of industrial materials. The concentration of lead in the soil has been found at levels exceeding 200,000 mg/kg. The soil that makes up the Creek bank is highly contaminated. Erosion of the steep (near vertical) bank has caused lead and other hazardous substances (arsenic, barium, copper, and others) to migrate into the sediment of the Brandywine Creek. The concentration of lead in the sediment has been found up to 19,500 mg/kg.

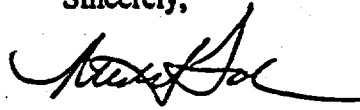
EPA has proposed a Removal Action to quickly stabilize the eroding bank. After isolating the Creek from the Site, the steep grades will be modified and a protective cover installed over the contaminated soil. The creek sediment exhibiting elevated lead contamination will be removed such that remaining sediment lead levels do not exceed an average of 91.3 mg/kg. EPA has coordinated the development of this proposed Removal Action with US Fish and Wildlife and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) personnel here in Region III of EPA. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has also been consulted.

EPA finds that removal of a limited area of Creek sediment is necessary to be protective of the aquatic environment. The upland area is characterized by sparse vegetation over a area of heavily contaminated soil. EPA's Removal Action proposes to cover this contaminated soil area.

To ensure that the Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements of the Endangered Species Act are met, this correspondence requests that such threatened or endangered species that might exist near the Site be identified. The coordinates of the Site are approximated as 75 deg., 32 min. and 39 deg. 44 min., and are accurately depicted on the enclosed USGS Quadrangle map of South Wilmington, Delaware.

Your timely response to identification of threatened or endangered species potentially at this Site is appreciated. I may be reached at (215) 814-3272 if there are any questions concerning this Site or this correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Towle", written in a cursive style.

Michael Towle,
On-Scene Coordinator

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7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

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